

Re : Tour to Lviv, Kiev, Yalta and back to New York, N.Y., end May/ June 1969

Source: An American lady of Ukrainian descent, originally from Lviv, West Ukraine, in her mid-fifties, with unfinished higher education, and many former friends and acquaintances in Lviv of elderly age.

Date : 18 July 1969

1. While in Lvov, the Source was told by the mother of Kateryna Zaryts'ka, that the latter "recently" had been transferred to a concentration camp in Mordovia (Mordvinia) from the Vladimir Prison. Her husband Mykhaylo Soroka is also in Mordvinian camps. The son of Zaryts'ka and Soroka, Bohdan Soroka, who lives in Lviv, on the advice of Ivan Svitlychny engaged a Jewish lawyer in Moscow, who succeeded in ascertaining the exact sentences of his parents. Accordingly, Kateryna Zaryts'ka should be released from camp on September 7, 1972, and her husband, Mykhaylo Soroka, in November 1976. Bohdan Soroka, who at one time belonged to the "golden youth" of Lviv, has completely changed under the impact of meetings with his father, and now keeps company with Chornovil, Svitlychny, and the like.

2. Ivan Svitlychny is generally known as the individual who is concerned with aiding the prison and camp inmates.

3. People in Kiev and Lviv are of the strong opinion that the Western press and other media should continually make mention of the sentences of prisoners in order to force the Soviet authorities to release the prisoners in due time. Some people expressed the view that Vyacheslav Chornovil would have never been released had he not gotten publicity abroad.

4. The Source was very much impressed by the scale and intensity of Ukrainian revival, particularly among young people in Lviv. A similar process is also taking place in Kiev.

5. There are rumors in Lviv that Bishop Velychkovsky was secretly tried in mid-June 1969 and shortly afterwards died. However, nobody knew anything for sure. Prior to his arrest in January 27, 1969, in December 1968 or early January 1969, he was summoned by the KGB and told to go to Yugoslavia to pick up some religious books. Bishop Velychkowsky regarded this as an attempt to get rid of him and being afraid that the KGB would never allow him to return, refused to go.

Despite all the latest arrests and interrogations, the underground Church seems to be rather strong in Western Ukraine. Cardinal Slipy enjoys great respect. Some people talked about his refusal to render his Soviet passport and commented quite favorably about this. In their view, this proves that the Cardinal has not given up hope of coming back to Ukraine eventually. Most active among Ukrainian monks are the Redemptorists and the Studites. The Basilians seem to have lost quite a lot of their influence due to their anti-Slipy campaign. Among clergy circles in Lviv, Rev. Kladochny is spoken of as a KGB informer, responsible for the arrest of Rev. ~~K~~ Klementiy Sheptytsky and Rev. Gorchynsky, among others, who after the arrest of Slipy after W.W.II were to head the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church.